

stand, obviously, in support of LB 830 as it is amended. I think Senator Wesely has done an excellent job in explaining what the main function of the bill is. And many people come to me and say, well, we've taken this out, we've taken that out, what does the bill really mean? And I think it's important to reiterate all of the positives that we're providing in this legislation, mandating a state plan, something to be put in place that is going to be more than just applied to the seat of your pants way of running the service we provide to people with developmental disabilities, a statewide registry. We don't know right now the number of people that are in need of services. As we expand the role from mental retardation to all of those people with developmental disabilities, it could be much, much larger than the numbers that we feel that we're dealing with at this time. The funding methodology is absolutely imperative that the regions, the private providers, that all of those people providing services know the dollars that they have to work with so that we won't have the type of funding problems that we had last year. And I think this is imperative and it's in this bill. Due process to the families and to the recipients, transitional services, the quality review teams, all of those things that Senator Wesely mentioned are in this bill that are essential and things that all of us have worked hard to bring to fruition. So, please, we aren't without some refinement. We all are willing to listen to anyone that has constructive ideas to bring to this bill. But, at this point, I would urge your advancement to Select File.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. The next speaker is Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I guess it's tough to wear two hats but I was an old county board member at one time and it's hard to get rid of those feelings. When you're challenged with a load as this would have put on the counties as it was first drafted it was really difficult to accept. I do see Senator Moore's point in the fact that we will have to look at it maybe closer at another time but at the present time the counties could not...they just couldn't share that burden as it was drafted. I do want to thank Senator Wesely for making an agreement and coming from where he was. It's a working together to solve the problems of the issue here, the mentally retarded, it's a real tough situation for the counties and all of us. I would like to thank Senator Byars for working with Senator Wesely. And I think we will work together,